

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 153. (Cancelled)

154. (Currently Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder having the ink jet head and an ink supply tube for directing liquid from said liquid container to the ink jet head, said liquid container comprising:

a main body, provided with an ink accommodating member, for containing a liquid;

a supply port for supplying the liquid to the ~~recording~~ink jet head, said supply port being disposed in a bottom side which faces said ink supply tube when said liquid container is mounted in the holder, wherein said ink accommodating member faces said ~~ink~~-supply port;

a first engaging portion, provided on a first side of said main body, adapted to engage with a first locking portion of the holder; and

an elastic supporting member having a second engaging portion adjacent a second side of said main body opposite of the first side and adapted to engage with a second locking portion of the holder, wherein said supply port is disposed between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion,

wherein said elastic supporting member is extended downwardly from an upper portion adjacent a top portion of said second side and adjacent a top side of said main body which is opposite said bottom side, wherein said elastic supporting member extends downwardly from said upper portion toward said bottom side,

wherein said elastic supporting member is provided with an operating portion for facilitating mounting or demounting said liquid container relative to the holder, and

wherein said second engaging portion is disposed at a position closer to a free end of said elastic supporting member than the operating portion.

155. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said liquid container comprises an air vent portion for fluid communication between the inside of said main body and the ambience.

156. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said main body accommodates said ink accommodating member which is a negative pressure producing material for retaining the liquid.

157. (Cancelled)

158. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said supply port is provided with fibrous material.

159. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said main body contains black ink.

160. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that the inside of said main body is divided into three portions, and said supply port and said air vent are provided for each of said three portions, and wherein said three portions contain yellow ink, cyan ink and magenta ink, respectively.

161. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 160, characterized in that said three portions are disposed along a direction from said first side to said second side.

162. (Cancelled)

163. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that when said container is mounted to the holder, said second engaging portion takes a position above said first engaging portion.

164. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said second engaging portion is in the form of a projection, having a height of approximately 1 mm, extended from said elastic supporting member.

165. (Cancelled)

166. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said elastic supporting member is in the form of a latch lever extended downwardly from a portion adjacent to a top portion of said second side.

167. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that two of the sides connecting said first side and said second side are provided with a projection contactable to a part of the holder, respectively.

168. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

169. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of a contact portion of a supply tube of the ~~recording~~ink jet head to said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

170. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said supply port is on a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion.

171. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said elastic supporting member elastically moves toward said main body when said container is mounted or demounted relative to the holder.

172. (Cancelled)

173. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that when said liquid container is mounted to the holder, said second engaging portion is inside the second locking portion of the holder, and is not extended outwardly.

174. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that an inclined surface is provided at a corner portion between a bottom side, in operation, of said main body and said first side.

175. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said supply port and said elastic supporting member are protected by a protection member during transportation of said liquid container.

176. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 175, characterized in that said protection member has a sealing member for sealing said supply port of ~~said a~~ said liquid container.

177. to 206. (Cancelled)

207. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said ~~ink~~ supply port is provided with a liquid absorbing material.

208. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to ~~Claim 165~~ Claim 166, wherein said latch lever is curved or bent toward said main body.

209. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion are engaged with said first locking portion and said second locking portion, respectively, to establish fluid communication by pressure between said ink accommodating member and said ink supply tube.

210. (Currently Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder having an ink supply tube constituting a

beginning end of a path for directing the liquid from said liquid container to the ink jet head, said liquid container comprising:

a main body, having an ink accommodating member for containing the liquid;

a supply port for supplying the liquid to the ink jet head, said supply port being disposed in a bottom side of said main body which faces said ink supply tube in operation, wherein said ink accommodating member faces said ~~ink~~ supply port;

a first engaging portion, provided on a first side of said main body and adapted to be engaged with a first locking portion of the holder; and

an elastic supporting ~~a supporting~~ member resiliently supported by said main body and being extended in front of a second side opposite said first side and having a second engaging portion capable of moving away from and towards said second side, wherein said second engaging portion is adapted to engage with a second locking portion of the holder,

wherein said supply port is disposed between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion when said liquid container is mounted into said holder, wherein said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion are engaged with said first locking portion and said second locking portion, respectively, to establish fluid communication by pressure between said ink accommodating member and said ink supply tube,

wherein said elastic supporting member is extended downwardly from an upper portion adjacent a top portion of said second side and adjacent a top side of said

main body which is opposite said bottom side, wherein said elastic supporting member extends downwardly from said upper portion toward said bottom side,

wherein said elastic supporting member is provided with an operating portion for facilitating mounting or demounting said liquid container relative to the holder, and

wherein said second engaging portion is disposed at a position closer to a free end of said elastic supporting member than the operating portion.

211. (Cancelled)

212. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that said elastic supporting member is in the form of a latch lever extended downwardly from a portion adjacent to a top portion of said second side.

213. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

214. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of a contact portion of a supply tube of the ~~recording~~ink jet head to said supply port to a line connecting a central portion

of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

215. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that said supply port is on a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion.

216. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing inwardly of said elastic supporting member.

217. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing outwardly of said elastic supporting member.

218. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing inwardly of said elastic supporting member.

219. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing outwardly of said elastic supporting member.

REQUEST PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b)(1)

Inventorship is being amended herein pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b). Correct inventorship was named at the time of filing, but prosecution has resulted in amendment and/or cancellation of claims such that fewer than all of the currently-named inventors are now the actual inventors of the claimed invention.

An amendment (above) is filed requesting deletion of the names of the persons who are not inventors of the subject matter currently being claimed.

The undersigned, who is a party set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(b), hereby requests correction of the inventorship so as to delete the following named inventors:

Hideki Yamaguchi
Takashi Nojima
Hitoshi Nakamura
Akira Kida
Hideaki Kawakami
Takeshi Iwasaki

The undersigned acknowledges that the invention of the inventors being deleted is no longer being claimed in this application.

As a result of deletion, the actual inventors of the subject matter now claimed are:

Hiroyuki Inoue
Soichi Hiramatsu
Toshihiko Ujita
Keiichiro Tsukuda
Akihiro Yamanaka
Yasuo Kotaki
Sadayuki Sugama

The processing fee of \$130.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed
herewith.